GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:634
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2003
IMPACT OF IMPORT OF FRUITS ON FRUIT GROWERS
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fruit growers especially of Jammu and Kashmir and H.P. are being adversely affected due to permission of import of apple and other fruits under the Open General Licence;

(b) if so, whether a survey or a study has been conducted or proposed to be conducted to assess the adverse effect; and

(c) the facilities being provided to them for increasing the exports of apple and other fruits by the Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) & (b) Import restrictions on apple have been removed in accordance with the economic liberalization policy and in keeping with our international commitments. However, subsequent to removal of quantitative restrictions on imports, the customs duty on apple imports was raised from 35% to the maximum bound rate of 50% during 2000-2001.In addition, import of all primary agricultural products, including apple, are subject to an import permit to be issued by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, as per Plants, Fruits, Seeds (Importation into India) Order, 1989.

(c)Government has approved creation of an Agri Export Zone for overall development of apple industry for export in Jammu & Kashmir. A Technology Mission for integrated development of horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, H.P. and Uttaranchal is under implementation. Assistance is also being provided for promotion of processing of fruits and vegetables and for development of market infrastructure facilities. Government has also been encouraging export of fruits including apples through various schemes such as, arranging buyer-seller meets, participating in international fairs and exhibitions, setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various international airports etc.